



Legislative Bulletin.....July 30, 2007

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Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today

Total Number of New Government Programs: Several

Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations: \$164 million in FY 2008; \$784 million over a five year period

Effect on Revenue: 0

Total Change in Mandatory Spending: Increased \$8 million in FY 2008

Total New State & Local Government Mandates: 0

Total New Private Sector Mandates: 2

Number of Bills Without Committee Reports: 11

Number of Reported Bills that Don’t Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority: 0

H.R. 180 — Darfur Accountability and Divestment Act of 2007 (Lee, D-CA)

Order of Business: H.R. 180 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 30, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 180 would direct the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to require companies conducting business operations or investments in Sudan to disclose the nature of any business relationships with the Sudanese government and safeguards that ensure business operations do not enhance the terrorist-sponsoring or genocidal policies of the government of Sudan. The bill would require the SEC and the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to issue annual reports containing the names of companies with investments in Sudan and the nature of their business. The reports would be published on the SEC and GAO websites.

Additional Information: According to the findings listed in the bill, the United States currently bans United States companies from conducting business operations in Sudan,

and millions of Americans are inadvertently supporting the government of Sudan by investing in foreign companies that conduct business operations in Sudan that disproportionately benefit the Sudanese regime in Khartoum.

As a result of the growing concern that foreign investments are being used to support the government in Darfur, many states have passed or are considering legislation to address this issue. Illinois, New Jersey, Oregon, and Maine have passed legislation mandating divestment of state funds from companies that conduct business operations in Sudan. California, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, North Carolina, Kansas, Wisconsin, Indiana, Georgia, Maryland, New York, Iowa, and Texas have considered or are considering legislation to divest state funds from companies that conduct business operations in Sudan. Connecticut, Ohio, and Vermont have passed non-binding divestment legislation with respect to Sudan. Arizona, Louisiana, Missouri, and Pennsylvania have adopted screening processes for investments in companies that conduct business operations in countries that are sponsors of terrorism, including Sudan.

Committee Action: H.R. 180 was introduced on January 4, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Financial Services and Oversight and Government Reform. On March 13, 2007, the Financial Services Committee referred the bill to the Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Insurance and Government Sponsored Enterprises and the Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, Trade, and Technology. On March 30, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform referred the bill to the Subcommittee on Government Management, Organization, and Procurement. No further official action was taken in either committee.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score for H.R. 180 is not available.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable. However, House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific* powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution” [*emphasis added*].

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H.R. 2347 — Iran Sanctions Enabling Act of 2007 **(Frank, D-MA)**

Order of Business: H.R. 2347 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 30, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 2347 would require the Secretary of Treasury, in consultation with the Secretaries of State and Energy and the SEC, to produce and publish a list of each person that has an investment of more than \$20 million in the energy sector of Iran. The list would include a description of the investment, the dollar amount, and the intended purpose of the investment. The bill would require that the list be published on the Department of Treasury's website.

Investors on the list would be given 30 days notification to make steps towards terminating investments in Iran's energy sector. Investors that took such steps could delay their inclusion by 60 days and any investor could be removed from the list when it is determined that the person no longer has an investment of more than \$20 million in Iran's energy sector.

Additional Information: According to findings listed in the bill, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, called for Israel to be 'wiped off the map,' described Israel as 'a disgraceful blot on the face of the Islamic world,' and declared that '[a]nybody who recognizes Israel will burn in the fire of the Islamic nation's fury.' The findings report that President Ahmadinejad has subsequently made similar comments, and the Government of Iran has displayed inflammatory symbols that express similar intent.

The bill further states that "on December 23, 2006, the United Nations Security Council unanimously approved Resolution 1737, which bans the supply of nuclear technology and equipment to Iran and freezes the assets of certain organizations and individuals involved in Iran's nuclear program, until Iran suspends its enrichment of uranium, as verified by the International Atomic Energy Agency. Following Iran's failure to comply with Resolution 1737, on March 24, 2007, the United Nations Security Council unanimously approved Resolution 1747, to tighten sanctions on Iran, imposing a ban on arms sales and expanding the freeze on assets, in response to the country's uranium-enrichment activities."

According to the bill, "Targeted financial measures represent one of the strongest non-military tools available to convince Tehran that it can no longer afford to engage in dangerous, destabilizing activities such as its nuclear weapons program and its support for terrorism. Foreign persons that have invested in Iran's energy sector, despite Iran's support of international terrorism and its nuclear program, have provided additional financial means for Iran's activities in these areas, and many United States persons have unknowingly invested in those same foreign persons."

Committee Action: H.R. 2347 was introduced on May 15, 2007 and referred to the Committee on Financial Services, which held a mark up and reported the bill, as amended, by voice vote on May 23, 2007.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to the CBO score for H.R. 2347, the bill would not have a significant effect on the federal budget.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? Yes, the bill would impose sanctions on people with over \$20 million invested in Iran's energy sector.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable. However, House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain "a statement citing the *specific* powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution" [*emphasis added*].

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H.Res. 121 — Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Government of Japan should formally acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility in a clear and unequivocal manner for its Imperial Armed Force's coercion of young women into sexual slavery, known to the world as "comfort women", during its colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s through the duration of World War II (*Honda, D-CA*)

Order of Business: H.Res. 121 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 30, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 121 would express the sense that the House of Representatives:

- "should formally acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility in a clear and unequivocal manner for its Imperial Armed Force's coercion of young women into sexual slavery, known to the world as 'comfort women', during its colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s through the duration of World War II;
- "should have this official apology given as a public statement presented by the Prime Minister of Japan in his official capacity;
- "should clearly and publicly refute any claims that the sexual enslavement and trafficking of the 'comfort women' for the Japanese Imperial Armed Forces never occurred; and
- "should educate current and future generations about this horrible crime while following the recommendations of the international community with respect to the 'comfort women'."

The resolution lists the following findings:

- "the Government of Japan, during its colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s through the duration of World War II,

officially commissioned the acquisition of young women for the sole purpose of sexual servitude to its Imperial Armed Forces, who became known to the world as ianfu or ‘comfort women’;

- “the ‘comfort women’ system of forced military prostitution by the Government of Japan, considered unprecedented in its cruelty and magnitude, included gang rape, forced abortions, humiliation, and sexual violence resulting in mutilation, death, or eventual suicide in one of the largest cases of human trafficking in the 20th century;
- “some new textbooks used in Japanese schools seek to downplay the ‘comfort women’ tragedy and other Japanese war crimes during World War II;
- “Japanese public and private officials have recently expressed a desire to dilute or rescind the 1993 statement by Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono on the ‘comfort women’, which expressed the Government’s sincere apologies and remorse for their ordeal;
- “the Government of Japan did sign the 1921 International Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women and Children and supported the 2000 United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security which recognized the unique impact of armed conflict on women;
- “the House of Representatives commends Japan’s efforts to promote human security, human rights, democratic values, and rule of law, as well as for being a supporter of Security Council Resolution 1325;
- “the House of Representatives commends those Japanese officials and private citizens whose hard work and compassion resulted in the establishment in 1995 of Japan’s private Asian Women’s Fund;
- “the Asian Women’s Fund has raised \$5,700,000 to extend ‘atonement’ from the Japanese people to the comfort women; and
- “the mandate of the Asian Women’s Fund, a government initiated and largely government-funded private foundation whose purpose was the carrying out of programs and projects with the aim of atonement for the maltreatment and suffering of the ‘comfort women’, comes to an end on March 31, 2007, and the Fund is to be disbanded as of that date.”

Additional Information: The website for the Asian Women’s Fund can be found here: <http://www.awf.or.jp/english/index.html>. According to Congressional Quarterly, Japan has lobbied aggressively to keep the apology resolution from coming to a vote. In addition, Japan’s U.S. embassy explains that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has issued apologies for the sexual enslavement of women and cautions that the resolution’s “adoption would be harmful to the friendship between the U.S. and Japan.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 121 was introduced on January 31, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. A mark-up session was held for H.Res. 121 on June 26, 2007.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

RSC Staff Contact: Sarah Makin; sarah.makin@mail.house.gov; 202-226-8587.

H.Con.Res. 136 — Expressing the sense of Congress regarding high level visits to the United States by democratically-elected officials of Taiwan (Chabot, R-OH)

Order of Business: H.Con.Res. 136 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 30, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 136 would express the sense of the House of Representatives:

- “restrictions on visits to the United States by high-level elected and appointed officials of Taiwan, including the democratically-elected President of Taiwan, should be lifted;
- “the United States should allow direct high-level exchanges at the Cabinet level with the Government of Taiwan, in order to strengthen a policy dialogue with Taiwan; and
- “it is in the interest of the United States to strengthen links between the United States and the democratically-elected officials of Taiwan and demonstrate stronger support for democracy in the Asia-Pacific region.”

The resolution lists the following findings:

- “for over half a century, a close relationship has existed between the United States and Taiwan, which has been of enormous political, economic, cultural, and strategic advantage to both countries;
- “Taiwan is one of the strongest democratic allies of the United States in the Asia-Pacific region;
- “it is United States policy to support and strengthen democracy around the world;
- “ during the late 1980s and early 1990s, Taiwan made a remarkable transition to a full-fledged democracy with a vibrant economy and a vigorous multi-party political system that respects human rights and the rule of law;
- “in spite of its praise for democracy in Taiwan, the United States Government continues to adhere to guidelines from the 1970s that bar the President, Vice President, Premier, Foreign Minister, and Defense Minister of Taiwan from coming to Washington, DC;
- “the United States Government has barred these high-level officials from visiting Washington, DC, while allowing the unelected leaders of the People’s Republic of China to routinely visit Washington, DC, and welcoming them to the White House;

- “these restrictions deprive the President, Congress, and the American public of the opportunity to engage in a direct dialogue regarding developments in the Asia-Pacific region and key elements of the relationship between the United States and Taiwan;
- “whenever high-level visitors from Taiwan, including the President, seek to come to the United States, their request results in a period of complex, lengthy and humiliating negotiations;
- “lifting these restrictions will help bring a United States friend and ally out of its isolation, which will be beneficial to peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region;
- “in consideration of the major economic, security, and political interests shared by the United States and Taiwan, it is to the benefit of the United States for United States officials to meet and communicate directly with the democratically-elected officials of Taiwan;
- “since the Taiwan Strait is one of the flashpoints in the world, it is essential that United States policymakers directly communicate with the leaders of Taiwan; and
- “section 221 of the Immigration and Nationality Technical Corrections Act of 1994 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note) provides that the President or other high-level officials of Taiwan may visit the United States, including Washington, DC, at any time to discuss a variety of important issues.”

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 136 was introduced on May 1, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. A mark-up session was held for H.Con.Res. 136 on June 26, 2007.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

RSC Staff Contact: Sarah Makin; sarah.makin@mail.house.gov; 202-226-8587.

H.Res. 427 — Urging the Government of Canada to end the commercial seal hunt (*Lantos, D-CA*)

Order of Business: H.Res. 427 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 30, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 427 would express the sense that the House of Representatives urges the Government of Canada to end the commercial hunt on seals.

The resolution lists a number of findings, including the following:

- “On November 15, 2006, the Government of Canada opened a commercial hunt for seals in the waters off the east coast of Canada;
- “an international outcry regarding the plight of the seals hunted in Canada resulted in the 1983 ban by the European Union of whitecoat and blueback seal skins and the subsequent collapse of the commercial seal hunt in Canada;
- “the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.) bars the import into the United States of seal products;
- “more than 1,000,000 seals have been killed over the past 3 years;
- “harp seal pups can legally be hunted in Canada as soon as they have begun to molt their white coats at approximately 12 days of age;
- “95 percent of the seals killed over the past 5 years were pups between just 12 days and 12 weeks of age, many of which had not yet eaten their first solid meal or taken their first swim;
- “a report by an independent team of veterinarians invited to observe the hunt by the International Fund for Animal Welfare concluded that the seal hunt failed to comply with basic animal welfare regulations in Canada and that governmental regulations regarding humane killing were not being respected or enforced;
- “the veterinary report concluded that as many as 42 percent of the seals studied were likely skinned while alive and conscious;
- “the commercial slaughter of seals in the Northwest Atlantic is inherently cruel, whether the killing is conducted by clubbing or by shooting;
- “the commercial hunt for harp and hooded seals is a commercial slaughter carried out almost entirely by non-Native people from the East Coast of Canada for seal fur, oil, and penises (used as aphrodisiacs in some Asian markets);
- “certain ministries of the Government of Canada have stated clearly that there is no evidence that killing seals will help groundfish stocks to recover; and
- “the persistence of this cruel and needless commercial hunt is inconsistent with the well-earned international reputation of Canada.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 427 was introduced on May 22, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

RSC Staff Contact: Sarah Makin; sarah.makin@mail.house.gov; 202-226-8587.

H.Con.Res. 188 — Condemning the attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in July 2004, and for other purposes (Ros-Lehtinen, R-FL)

Order of Business: H.Con.Res. 188 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 30, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 188 would express the sense that the House of Representatives:

- “reiterates its strongest condemnation of the 1994 attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and honors the victims of this heinous act;
- “expresses its sympathy to the relatives of the victims, who have waited 13 years without justice for the loss of their loved ones, and may have to wait even longer for justice to be served;
- “applauds the current Government of Argentina for increasing the pace of the AMIA bombing investigation, as well as on its recently approved anti-terrorism legislation;
- “urges the Government of Argentina to continue to dedicate and provide the resources necessary for its judicial system and intelligence agencies to investigate all areas of the AMIA case and to bring those responsible to justice;
- “calls upon the General Assembly of INTERPOL to uphold, issue and implement the international arrest warrants supported by the Executive Committee of INTERPOL in March 2007; and
- “calls upon responsible nations to cooperate fully with the investigation, including by making information, witnesses, and suspects available for review and questioning by the appropriate Argentine authorities, and by detaining and extraditing to Argentina, if given the opportunity, any of the Iranian officials and former officials, Hezbollah operatives, and Islamist militants against whom Argentine or international arrest warrants are pending in connection with the AMIA case.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including the following:

- “on July 18, 1994, 85 innocent people were killed and 300 were wounded when the Argentine Jewish Mutual Association (AMIA) was bombed in Buenos Aires, Argentina;
- “extensive evidence links the planning of the attacks to the Government of Iran, and the execution of the attacks to the terrorist group Hezbollah, which is based in Lebanon, supported by Syria, and sponsored by Iran;
- “on October 25, 2006, the State Prosecutor of Argentina, an office created by the current Government of Argentina, concluded that the AMIA bombing was ‘decided and organized by the highest leaders of the former government of ... Iran, whom, at the same time, entrusted its execution to the Lebanese terrorist group Hezbollah’;

- “on October 25, 2006, the State Prosecutor of Argentina concluded that the AMIA bombing had been approved in advance by Iran’s Supreme Leader Ali Khamene’i, Iran’s then-leader Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, Iran’s then-Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, and Iran’s then-Minister of Security and Intelligence Ali Fallahijan;
- “on October 25, 2006, the State Prosecutor of Argentina stated that the Government of Iran uses ‘terrorism as a mechanism of its foreign policy’ in support of ‘its final aim [which] is to export its radicalized vision of Islam and to eliminate the enemies of the regime’;
- “on October 25, 2006, the State Prosecutor of Argentina identified Ibrahim Hussein Berro, a Lebanese citizen and member of Hezbollah, as the suicide bomber who primarily carried out the attack on the AMIA;
- “on November 9, 2006, Argentine Judge Rodolfo Canicoba Corral, pursuant to the request of the State Prosecutor of Argentina, issued an arrest warrant for Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, a former leader of Iran and the current chairman of Iran’s Expediency Council, for his involvement in the AMIA bombing and urged the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) to issue an international arrest warrant for Rafsanjani and detain him;
- “Iran has appealed the INTERPOL Executive Committee’s decision, and the General Assembly of INTERPOL will issue a final ruling on the arrest warrants when it meets in Morocco in November 2007;
- “the inability to reach suspected Islamist militants and Iranian officials has debilitated the efforts of the Government of Argentina to prosecute masterminds and planners of the 1994 AMIA bombing;
- “the current Government of Argentina has made significant advances in the AMIA investigation; and
- “Argentina recently approved anti-terrorist legislation which seeks to criminalize financing, fund-raising, and money laundering activities of groups linked to terrorism.”

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 188 was introduced on July 18, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

RSC Staff Contact: Sarah Makin; sarah.makin@mail.house.gov; 202-226-8587.

H.R. 176 — Shirley A. Chisholm United States-Caribbean Educational Exchange Act of 2007 (*Lee, D-CA*)

Order of Business: H.R. 176 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 30, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 176 would authorize “such sums” for the Secretary of State to establish the “Shirley A. Chisholm United States-Caribbean Educational Exchange Program.”

Under **this new program**, high school and college students from Caribbean countries would attend public or private schools and universities in the United States. The students would participate in activities designed to promote a greater understanding of the United States and would have the option of living with a host family or in on-campus housing.

The **new program** would offer scholarships based on merit and need and seek to achieve gender equality in granting scholarships under the program. The bill would set time limits for participation in the program, ranging from one to four years. Program participants would be required to return to a Caribbean country within six months and pursue a career that benefits development of a Caribbean nation.

H.R. 176 would also authorize the Secretary to establish a **new program** to provide educational development assistance for Caribbean countries. The program would extend and expand programs that provide teacher-training methods, school management, curriculum modernization, and increased community involvement in school activities.

Additional Information: According to the findings listed in the bill, nations in the Caribbean Community, or CARICOM, have long enjoyed friendly relations with the United States. Since the attacks of September 11, 2001, tourism in CARICOM nations has dropped drastically. The bill states that “high rates of unemployment, particularly youth unemployment, have had severe implications on poverty and income distributions, as well as drug trafficking and addiction.” The programs authorized in the bill are meant to help reverse these trends by exposing students from CARICOM countries to the values, culture, and educational opportunities in America.

Committee Action: H.R. 176 was introduced on January 4, 2007 and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which held a mark up and reported the bill, as amended, by unanimous consent on June 26, 2007.

Cost to Taxpayers: The bill would authorize “such sums” to carry out the programs in the bill, which CBO estimates would be \$2 million in FY 2008 and \$48 million through FY 2012.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? Yes, it creates a new exchange program for students of Caribbean nations.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Constitutional Authority: Committee Report 110-254 cites Constitutional authority in Article 1, Section 8, but does not cite a specific clause. However, House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific* powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution” *[emphasis added]*.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

**H.R. 957 — To amend the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 to expand and clarify the entities against which sanctions may be imposed
(Ros-Lehtinen, R-FL)**

Order of Business: H.R. 957 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 30, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 975 would amend current law to expand and clarify the entities against which sanctions may be imposed under the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996. The bill would redefine “person” to include any “financial institution, insurer, underwriter, guarantor, any other business organization, including any foreign subsidiaries of the foregoing” and “petroleum resources” to include “petroleum by-products, liquefied natural gas.”

The bill would also subject a parent company to sanctions for activities committed by of its foreign subsidiaries and defines “parent company” as a company that “owns, directly or indirectly, more than 50 percent of the equity interest in that other entity and is a United States person.”

Additional Information: According to Committee Report 110-163,

Iran poses a significant threat to the United States and our allies in the region. It is a vital U.S. national security priority to undertake steps to prevent Iran from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, and to end its support for international terrorism. Iran’s economy, and its ability to influence events, is heavily dependent on the revenue derived from energy exports. As such, recent U.S. efforts to prevent Iran from acquiring weapons of mass destruction have focused on deterring and prohibiting investment in Iran's petroleum sector.

Although U.S. law prohibits American firms from investing in Iran, foreign entities which fall outside of United States jurisdiction continue to invest there. Such activity has enhanced the Iranian economy, allowed Iran access to sophisticated technology and know-how, as well as foreign currency, and thereby

contributed significantly to Iran's ability to fund terror groups, and to finance the regime's weapons of mass destruction programs, including its nuclear program.

This amendment addresses concerns that existing law requires the clarification that sanctions should apply to certain foreign subsidiaries.

Committee Action: H.R. 957 was introduced on February 8, 2007 and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, Ways and Means, and Oversight and Government Reform. On February 15, 2007, the Committee on Foreign Affairs held a mark up and reported the bill, as amended, by unanimous consent.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to the CBO score for H.R. 957, the bill would not have a significant effect on the federal budget.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H. Res. 515 — Congratulating the Oregon State University Beavers baseball team for winning the 2007 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I College World Series (*Hooley, D-OR*)

Order of Business: H.Res. 515 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 30, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 515 would express the sense that the House of Representatives congratulates the Oregon State University Beavers baseball team for winning the 2007 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I College World Series Championship for a 2nd consecutive year.

The resolution lists a number of findings, including the following:

- “on June 24, 2007, before 25,012 fans at Rosenblatt Stadium in Omaha, Nebraska, the largest championship game crowd in College World Series history, the Oregon State University Beavers baseball team capped an improbable season, winning the 2007 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I College

World Series Championship by defeating the University of North Carolina Tar Heels, 2 games to none, in a best-of-3 championship series;

- “the 2007 College World Series Championship represents the second National Championship for the Beavers baseball team;
- “the 2007 Beaver baseball team became the first team in a decade to capture back-to-back national titles;
- “the Beavers were undefeated in the 2007 College World Series;
- “the Beavers trailed for only 1 of 45 innings they played in the 2007 College World Series;
- “the Beavers became the first team to win 4 College World Series games by at least 6 runs;
- “the Beavers became the first No. 3 seed to ever win the College World Series since the current 64-team format was introduced;
- “the Beavers outscored their opponents 42-16 in the College World Series;
- “the Beavers ended their season with 10 straight NCAA tournament victories;
- “Oregon State University’s appearance in the 2007 College World Series marked only the 4th time in the school’s history;
- “the Beavers have displayed great heart, outstanding dedication, resilience, character, and sportsmanship throughout the season in achieving the highest honor in collegiate baseball;
- “the students, alumni, and faculty of Oregon State University and other fans of Oregon State University have shown tremendous commitment to and support for the Beavers baseball program; and
- “the Beavers have brought pride to Oregon State University, the Corvallis community, the State of Oregon, and Beaver Nation.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 515 was introduced on June 25, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

RSC Staff Contact: Sarah Makin; sarah.makin@mail.house.gov; 202-226-8587.

H. Res. 511 — Congratulating the men’s volleyball team of the University of California, Irvine, for winning the 2007 NCAA Division I Men’s Volleyball National Championship (Campbell, R-CA)

Order of Business: H.Res. 511 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 30, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 511 would express the sense that the House of Representatives:

- “congratulates the men’s volleyball team of the University of California, Irvine, and its Chancellor, Michael V. Drake, M.D., for winning the 2007 NCAA Division I Men’s Volleyball National Championship; and
- “recognizes the achievements of the players, coaches, students, alumni, and staff who were instrumental in helping the University of California, Irvine, win the national title.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including the following:

- “the men’s volleyball team of the University of California, Irvine (UC Irvine), known as the Anteaters, achieved many historic accomplishments during the 2006-2007 season;
- “the UC Irvine men’s volleyball team won the school’s first ever National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I Men’s Volleyball National Championship;
- “the UC Irvine men’s volleyball team finished with 29 victories, the most victories in school history;
- “the UC Irvine men’s volleyball team finished with the most wins in the Nation for the 2006-2007 season;
- “the UC Irvine men’s volleyball team won the 2007 Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Men’s Volleyball title;
- “the UC Irvine men’s volleyball team had four players selected to the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) All-America Team, the most by any team in the Nation;
- “the UC Irvine men’s volleyball team started the season as the preseason favorite in the CSTV/AVCA Division I Men’s Coaches Top 15 Poll;
- “the UC Irvine men’s volleyball team finished first in the CSTV/AVCA Division I Men’s Coaches Top 15 Poll, released May 7, 2007;
- “the UC Irvine men’s volleyball team accomplished these feats while playing a difficult schedule in the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation;
- “the title is UC Irvine’s first Division I title since 1989; and
- “UC Irvine, under the leadership of Chancellor Michael V. Drake, M.D., has continued to establish itself as a world-class research university, and as one of the top universities in the Nation.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 511 was introduced on June 22, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

RSC Staff Contact: Sarah Makin; sarah.makin@mail.house.gov; 202-226-8587.

H.R. 2707 — To reauthorize the Underground Railroad Educational and Cultural Program (*Kucinich, D-OH*)

Order of Business: H.R. 2707 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 30, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 2707 would create a new program, authorizing the Secretary of Education to make grants available to nonprofit educational organizations that research, display, interpret, and collect artifacts relating to the history of the Underground Railroad. The bill would authorize \$6 million annually between FY 2008 and FY 2010, and \$3 million in FY 2011 and FY 2012.

Additional Information: The grant making programs for Underground Railroad education were authorized in 1998, by amendments to the Higher Education Act of 1965. **In previous budgets, the President has called for the elimination of the Underground Railroad Educational and Cultural Program.**

Committee Action: H.R. 2707 was introduced on June 13, 2007, and was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor. On July 24, 2007, the bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Healthy Families and Communities, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: Although a CBO score for H.R. 2707 is not available, the bill would authorize \$6 million in FY 2008 and \$24 million over the FY 2008 – FY 2012 period.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H.R. 23 — Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2007 (*Filner, D-CA*)

Order of Business: H.R. 23 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 30, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 23 would direct the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to make monthly payments of \$1,000 and military burial and cemetery rights to certain Merchant Marines who served during World War II.

The bill would authorize payments to persons that served in the merchant marines between December 7, 1941, and December 31, 1946, as a crewmember of a vessel that was:

- Operated by the War Shipping Administration or the Office of Defense Transportation;
- Operated in waters other than inland waters, the Great Lakes, and other lakes, bays, and harbors of the United States;
- Under contract or the property of the U.S. government;
- Serving the Armed Forces; or
- Licensed or otherwise documented for service as a crewmember of such a vessel by an officer or employee of the United States authorized to license or document the person for such service.

H.R. 23 would also extend such benefits to the spouse of a deceased person listed above so long as they had been married for more than one year.

Additional Information: According to the United States Merchant Marines (USMM), the merchant marines "provided the greatest sealift in history between the production army at home and the fighting forces scattered around the globe in World War II. The prewar total of 55,000 experienced mariners was increased to over 215,000 through U.S. Maritime Service training programs." The group goes on to report that merchant marine ships were the target of attack from submarines, mines, armed raiders, aircraft, and the elements. According the USMM, about 8,300 merchant marines were killed in WWII and at least 12,000 wounded, as 31 ships were destroyed by enemy attacks.

Merchant marines contend that, as contractors of the United States Armed Forces, they were asked to go on numerous dangerous and vital military missions during WWII. The USMM believes that the services provided by merchant marines helped to keep the military adequately supplied and helped bring about victory for the U.S. As such, the USMM believes that merchant marines deserve benefits like those given to members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Some veterans' groups, however, contend that there are greater inequalities and injustices towards former service members that the VA should address first. The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), for instance, has pointed out the \$1,000 monthly payment would exceed the amount that a WWII veteran who served 20 years and retired in 1955 by \$100. The MOAA believes that "Congress has a fundamental responsibility

to establish relative priorities, put first things first, and ensure that there is better proportionality between compensation and service and sacrificed rendered."

Possible Conservative Concerns: Some conservatives may be concerned at the cost of providing monthly payments of \$1,000 to merchant marines, who served as contracted employees during WWII.

Committee Action: H.R. 23 was introduced on January 4, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Ways and Means. On April 18, 2007, the Veterans' Affairs Committee held hearings on the bill. On July 17, 2007, the committee held a mark up and reported the bill, as amended, by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, H.R. 23 would authorize \$120 million in FY 2008 and \$485 million over a five year period through FY 2012.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? Yes, it creates a new federal payment to Merchant Marines who served in World War II, or their surviving spouses.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

**H.R. 1315 — To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide specially adaptive housing assistance to certain disabled members of the Armed Forces residing temporarily in housing owned by a family member
(*Herseth, D-SD*)**

Order of Business: H.R. 1315 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 30, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 1315 would authorize up to \$14,000 to adapt the home of a family member of a disabled service member to meet the special needs of an injured veteran. The bill would also extend the period following release from active duty during which a veteran would be protected from mortgage foreclosure from 90 days to 180 days.

H.R. 1315 would direct the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to establish a scholarship program for students to obtain degrees in rehabilitation of the blind. The VA would determine the size of the scholarship, which would be limited to \$15,000 annually and \$45,000 total over a period of no more than six years.

The bill would also require the Department of Labor to conduct and report an annual study of veterans' reemployment rights.

Additional Information: According to Committee Report [110-266](#), H.R. 1315 “would provide injured service members the resources need to help them achieve a level of independent living they may not otherwise enjoy by making them eligible, prior to discharge, for Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) grants provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This legislation would better protect our nation’s veterans from financial burdens incurred while on active duty by extending the length of the post-deployment mortgage foreclosure protections in the Service members’ Civil Relief Act; expand scholarship education programs in order to address more effectively the rehabilitative needs of visually-impaired veterans; and, bolster reemployment rights for returning veterans by requiring Federal agencies to adopt common terminology.”

Committee Action: H.R. 1315 was introduced on March 9, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, which referred the bill to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity. On June 21, 2007, subcommittee hearings were held and the bill was reported back to the full committee. On July 17, 2007, a mark-up was held and the bill was reported, as amended, by voice vote on July 27, 2007.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, H.R. 1315 would increase direct spending by \$8 million in FY 2008 and authorize \$2 million in discretionary spending over the FY 2008 to FY 2012 period.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? Yes, the bill contains mandates on entities that are seeking to foreclose on service members within 180 of their leaving active duty.

Constitutional Authority: Committee Report [110-266](#) cites constitutional authority in Article 1, Section 8, but does not cite a specific clause.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H.R. 2874 — Veterans’ Health Care Improvement Act of 2007 (Michaud, D-ME)

Order of Business: H.R. 2874 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 30, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 2874 would establish a number of new veterans programs to aide injured and returning service members.

The bill would authorize \$2 million annually between FY 2008 and FY 2011 for the VA to provide grants to assist in the therapeutic readjustment and rehabilitation of covered veterans. The grants would be made to private nonprofit entities and could not exceed \$100,000 annually.

The bill would authorize \$3 million annually between FY 2008 and FY 2011 for the VA to provide grants for innovative transportation options to veterans in remote rural areas. The grants would be made to state veterans' service agencies, veterans' service organizations, and private nonprofit entities and could not exceed \$50,000 annually.

H.R. 2874 would require the VA to establish and carry out programs to provide enhanced outreach, readjustment, and mental health services to veterans of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The bill would require the VA to contract with community mental health centers to provide services that are not adequately served by VA facilities in the area.

The bill would authorize the VA to provide financial assistance to programs that provide services for very low-income veteran families who reside in permanent housing. The bill would require that housing assistance is distributed equitably across geographic regions. H.R. 2874 would also require that VA domiciliary programs can adequately meet the needs of women. The bill would authorize \$25 million annually for these expanded housing programs.

The bill would also allow homeless veterans to be eligible for dental care after 30 days of receiving treatment rather than the current period of 60 days.

Additional Information: According to Committee Report [110-228](#), H.R. 2874 would “authorize VA to establish a new grant program to conduct therapeutic workshops that would allow the veteran to express thoughts and feelings through such programs as art, writing and music. Additionally, to address the readjustment counseling and mental health concerns of veterans who live in rural areas or areas where VA does not have adequate readjustment counseling and mental health services available, this legislation would require VA to contract with mental health centers and nonprofit mental health organizations to provide peer-to-peer counseling and outreach training. It further requires VA to train mental health clinicians to VA standards in order to maintain the highest quality of care provided to veterans.

“This legislation also begins to address the difficult task of providing access to health care in rural areas by authorizing VA to establish a grant program that would provide grants to State veterans' service agencies, nonprofits and veterans service organizations (VSOs) to develop new and innovative ways to provide transportation to veterans who reside in rural areas.

“This legislation also addresses issues of homelessness. VA is the largest single provider of direct services to homeless veterans, reaching 100,000 or 25 percent of homeless veterans a year through their various programs. Like their non-veteran counterparts,

veterans are at high risk of homelessness due to extremely low or no livable income, extreme shortage of affordable housing, and lack of access to health care.

“Prior to becoming homeless, a large number of veterans at risk of homelessness have struggled with PTSD, or have addictions acquired during, or worsened by, their military service. H.R. 2874 begins to address the needs of homeless veterans by extending and expanding VA’s authority for counseling services for at risk veterans transitioning from certain institutions and authorizing VA to provide financial assistance to provide supportive services for very low-income veteran families residing in permanent housing.”

Committee Action: H.R. 2874 was introduced on June 27, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, which referred the bill to the Subcommittee on Health. On July 11, 2007, subcommittee hearings were held and the bill was reported back to the full committee. On July 17, 2007, a mark up was held and the bill was reported, as amended, by voice vote on July 27, 2007.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, H.R. 2874 would authorize \$42 million in FY 2008 and \$209 million over the FY 2008 – FY 2012 period.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? Yes, it creates multiple new VA programs.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Constitutional Authority: Committee Report [110-228](#) cites constitutional authority in Article 1, Section 8, but does not cite a specific clause.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H.R. 2623 — To amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the collection of co-payments for all hospice care furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs (Miller, R-FL)

Order of Business: H.R. 2623 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 30, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 2623 would amend current law to prohibit the VA from collecting co-payments for inpatient or outpatient hospice care.

Additional Information: According to Committee Report [110-267](#), “VA has reported that they track co-payment amounts for inpatient services and outpatient services collectively rather than by individual services. It is, therefore, difficult to determine the exact amount of revenue VA has received from hospice care co-payments. However, VA

estimates a total of \$343,542 in annual revenue: \$183,180 for home hospice care, and \$160,362 for inpatient hospice care.

“Under current law, a veteran receiving hospice care in a nursing home is exempt from any applicable co-payments. However, if the hospice care is provided in any other setting, such as in an acute-care hospital or at home, the veteran may be subject to an inpatient or outpatient primary care co-payment. VA’s current policy penalizes a veteran who chooses to remain at home for their hospice care or who, out of medical necessity, receives hospice care in an acute care setting.”

Committee Action: H.R. 2623 was introduced on June 7, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, which referred the bill to the Subcommittee on Health. On June 28, 2007, subcommittee hearings were held and the bill was reported back to the full committee. On July 17, 2007, a mark-up was held and the bill was reported, as amended, by voice vote on July 27, 2007.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, the bill would increase discretionary appropriations by less than \$500,000 in FY 2008 and about \$2 million over the FY 2008 – FY 2012 period.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Constitutional Authority: Committee Report [110-267](#) cites constitutional authority in Article 1, Section 8, but does not cite a specific clause.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

**H.R. 3184 — To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out a competitive grant program for the Puget Sound area to provide comprehensive conservation planning to address water quality
(Larson, D-WA)**

Order of Business: H.R. 3184 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 30, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3184 would authorize the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to establish a new grant program to address water quality through conservation planning in the Puget Sound area of Washington. The bill would authorize \$5 million for the USDA to enter into cooperative agreements with state and local governments to carry out the projects.

Additional Information: The Puget Sound Partnership for Water Conservation is a nonprofit organization formed through a public-private collaboration between citizens, water utilities, businesses and environmental interests.

Committee Action: H.R. 3184 was introduced on July 26, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, H.R. 3184 would authorize \$5 million for each of fiscal years FY 2008 – FY 2012.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

**H.R. 3006 — To improve the use of a grant of a parcel of land to the State of Idaho for use as an agricultural college, and for other purposes
(Simpson, R-ID)**

Order of Business: H.R. 3006 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 30, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3006 would amend current law to allow the state of Idaho to alter the administration of its federally granted public lands, and the proceeds from those lands, to use the assets to establish the Idaho Center for Livestock and Environmental Studies.

Additional Information: The Morrill Act of 1862, which was designed to spur on economic growth and expansion in the western territories, made it possible for western states to establish colleges for their citizens. The Act gave 30,000 acres of federal government land to the Union states for every congressional district. Under this provision, Idaho received 90,000 acres when it became a state in 1890. This bill would allow Idaho to use a portion of that land and revenue from that land for the Idaho Center for Livestock and Environmental Studies.

Committee Action: H.R. 3006 was introduced on June 26, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, which took no further action.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score for H.R. 3006 is not available; however, the bill does not authorize any expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

**S. 1716 — U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery,
and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007
(Thune, R-SD)**

Order of Business: S. 1716 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 30, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: S. 1716 would amend current law to strike a requirement that forage producers participate in the insurance pilot program or the non-insured crop disaster program to qualify for crop disaster and livestock insurance. The requirement is a provision of the PL 110-28, the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act.

Committee Action: S. 1716 was passed in the Senate without amendment on July 25, 2007, and received in the House on July 26, 2007. No official action has been taken.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score for S. 1716 is not available, however the bill does not authorize any expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

**H.R. 3206 — Short Term Extension of the Small Business
Administration (Velazquez, D-NY)**

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Monday, July 30, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3206 would temporarily extend programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 through December 15, 2008. Earlier this year, these programs were extended through July 31, 2007, by H.R. 434, which passed by a [roll call vote](#) of 413-2.

Committee Action: H.R. 3206 was introduced on July 27, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Small Business, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score of H.R. 3206 is unavailable.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific* powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution.” *[emphasis added]*

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

**H.R. 3123 — To extend the designation of Liberia under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act so that Liberians can continue to be eligible for temporary protected status under that section
(Kennedy, D-RI)**

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Monday, July 30, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3123 would extend the protected immigration status for Liberian refugees living in the United States for an additional year.

Addition Information: According to the CIA, a 1980 military coup in Liberia, led by Samuel Doe “ushered in a decade of authoritarian rule. In December 1989, Charles Taylor launched a rebellion against Doe’s regime that led to a prolonged civil war in which Doe himself was killed. A period of relative peace in 1997 allowed for elections that brought Taylor to power, but major fighting resumed in 2000. An August 2003, peace agreement ended the war and prompted the resignation of former president Charles

Taylor, who was exiled to Nigeria. After two years of rule by a transitional government, democratic elections in late 2005 brought President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to power. The UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), which maintains a strong presence throughout the country, completed a disarmament program for former combatants in late 2004, but the security situation is still volatile and the process of rebuilding the social and economic structure of this war-torn country remains sluggish.”

Due to the humanitarian problems in Liberia, the United States has allowed Liberian refugees to live and work in America under temporary protected status. Despite the continuing problems faced by Liberia, the State Department has determined that conditions have improved enough for the roughly 3,500 Liberians living in the U.S. to return home. The Liberian government, along with most Liberians living here, does not yet want to see the refugees returned, partly because they send millions of dollars to family in the country. This bill would extend the time period that Liberians are able to stay in the United States by one year, to September 30, 2008.

Committee Action: H.R. 3123 was introduced on July 23, 2007, and referred to the Judiciary Committee, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score is not currently available.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

S. 975 — Granting the consent and approval of Congress to an interstate forest fire protection compact (Thune, R-SD)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Monday, July 30, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: S. 975 would allow the states of South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, and any adjoining states, to enter into an interstate firefighting compact, known as the Great Plains Wildland Fire Protection Agreement. The agreement would allow each state to provide personnel and resources to other states to assist in fighting fires.

The state would have to reimburse any assisting state for all costs associated with the assistance. The bill would grant firefighters working outside of their home state the same powers, duties, rights, privileges, and immunities as comparable employees of the state to

which they are rendering aid. The agreement would also prohibit any state from reducing its firefighting personnel or resources as a result of the agreement.

Committee Action: S. 975 was passed in the Senate without amendment by unanimous consent on July 13, 2007. On July 26, 2007 the bill was received in the House and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, which took no official action has been taken.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score for S. 975 is not available, however the bill does not authorize any expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H.R. 3067 — Small Public Housing Authority Act (Neugebauer, R-TX)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Monday, July 30, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3067 would exempt certain small public housing authorities (PHA) from a provision that requires them to prepare and submit an annual housing agency plan. Under the bill, small housing authorities would still be required to submit five year plans to HUD, which would contain the same information as a one year plan.

The exemption would be available to PHAs that are administering less than 250 houses and are not on HUD's list of troubled agencies. The small PHAs would still have to participate with HUD resident advisory boards to establish goals, policies, and objectives and submit annual certifications of compliance with civil rights requirements.

Additional Information: According to the sponsor's office, "The 1992 Public Housing Reform Act required PHAs to submit both five-year *and* annual plans to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This plan process requires a significant amount of time and resources for PHAs, especially for small PHAs."

"This legislation will ease the regulatory burdens that are placed on small PHAs, which many times only have a part-time executive director. Some of these directors do not have the time, staff or resources to complete these annual plans by themselves. Some small PHAs often have no choice but to hire consultants since they do not have the computer

software package to help complete these annual plans. These consultants are an expensive cost for small PHAs that already are facing numerous fiscal challenges.”

Committee Action: H.R. 3067 was introduced on July 17, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Financial Services, which took no further action.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score for H.R. 3067 is not available; however, the bill does not authorize any expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H.R. 2750 — NASA and JPL 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act (*Jackson-Lee, D-TX*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Monday, July 30, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 2750 would direct the Secretary of Treasury to design and mint 50,000 \$50 dollar gold coins and 300,000 \$1 silver coins that are “emblematic of the 50 years of exemplary and unparalleled achievements of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL).”

The \$50 coin would bear a picture of the sun and “a design emblematic of the sacrifice of the United States astronauts who lost their lives in the line of duty over the course of the space program.” The \$1 coins would bear nine different designs commemorating the achievements of JPL and NASA.

The bill would require a \$50 surcharge for the \$50 coin and a \$10 surcharge for the \$1 coin. The first \$4 million in proceeds would go to the NASA family assistance fund for families of NASA personnel killed in the line of duty. The additional proceeds would be split between other NASA related charities, including the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

Additional Information: According to findings listed in the bill:

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s stunning achievements over the last 50 years have been won for all mankind at great cost and sacrifice; in

the quest to explore the universe, many National Aeronautics and Space Administration employees have lost their lives, including the crews of Apollo 6, the Space Shuttle Challenger, and the Space Shuttle Columbia. The United States should pay tribute to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory by minting and issuing a commemorative silver dollar coin. The surcharge proceeds from the sale of a commemorative coin would generate valuable funding for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Families Assistance Fund for the purposes of providing need-based financial assistance to the families of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration personnel who die as a result of injuries suffered in the performance of their official duties.

While the proceeds generated from this bill would be used for charitable programs, commemorative coins often lose money.

Committee Action: H.R. 2750 was introduced on June 15, 2007 and referred to the Committee on Financial Services, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO estimate for H.R. 2750 is not available.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is not available. However, House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific* powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution” [*emphasis added*].

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H. Con.Res. 49 — Recognizing the 75th anniversary of the Military Order of the Purple Heart and commending recipients of the Purple Heart for their courageous demonstrations of gallantry and heroism on behalf of the United States (Jones, R-NC)

Order of Business: H.Con.Res. 49 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 30, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 49 would express the sense that the House of Representatives:

- “congratulates the Military Order of the Purple Heart on its 75th anniversary as a national organization whose goals are to preserve and sustain the honor of the Armed Forces;
- “commends all recipients of the Purple Heart for their courageous demonstrations of gallantry and heroism on behalf of the United States; and
- “encourages all Americans to take time to learn about the Purple Heart and the honor, courage, and bravery it symbolizes.”

The resolution the following findings:

- “the Purple Heart is a combat decoration awarded to members of the Armed Forces who are wounded by an instrument of war wielded by the enemy and posthumously to the next of kin in the name of members who are killed in action or die of wounds received in action;
- “the Purple Heart was originally conceived as the Badge of Military Merit by General George Washington on August 7, 1782;
- “2007 marks the 225th anniversary of the Badge of Military Merit, the predecessor of the Purple Heart Medal;
- “the practice of awarding the Purple Heart was revived in 1932, the 200th anniversary of George Washington’s birth, out of respect for his memory and military achievements;
- “over 1.5 million Purple Heart Medals have been awarded to members of the Armed Forces fighting in defense of freedom and democracy in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and other expeditionary conflicts;
- “more than 500,000 recipients of the Purple Heart are still living today;
- “the organization known as the Military Order of the Purple Heart was formed on October 19, 1932, for the protection and mutual interest of members of the Armed Forces who have received the Purple Heart; and
- “the Military Order of the Purple Heart is composed exclusively of recipients of the Purple Heart and is the only veterans’ service organization comprised strictly of combat veterans.”

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 49 was introduced on January 31, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Armed Services, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

RSC Staff Contact: Sarah Makin; sarah.makin@mail.house.gov; 202-226-8587.

H. Res. 568 — Honoring and expressing gratitude to the 1st Battalion of the 133rd Infantry (“Ironman Battalion”) of the Iowa National Guard (*Braley, D-IA*)

Order of Business: H.Res. 568 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 30, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 568 would express the sense that the House of Representatives honors and expresses gratitude for the service and sacrifices of the members and families of the 1st Battalion of the 133rd Infantry of the Iowa National Guard upon their return home from their deployment in Iraq.

The resolution the following findings:

- “476 members of the 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry of the Iowa National Guard were mobilized for active duty in September and October of 2005;
- “80 members of the 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry have been providing essential support to the Battalion from Iowa National Guard installations in Waterloo, Iowa, and Dubuque, Iowa, and at least 490 members of the 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry were deployed to Iraq in April and May of 2006;
- “the members of the 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry have been serving bravely and honorably since those dates in the al-Anbar Province of Iraq, one of the most dangerous parts of the country;
- “the 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry deployed as part of the 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 34th Infantry Division, which has completed the longest continuous deployment of any Army National Guard unit during Operation Iraqi Freedom;
- “the 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry is the longest-serving Iowa Army National Guard unit since World War II;
- “the CBS program ‘60 Minutes’ devoted an entire hour to telling the story of the 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry on May 27, 2007;
- “the members of the 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry have completed over 500 missions providing security for convoys operating in the al-Anbar Province;
- “the members of the 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry have logged over 4 million mission miles, and have delivered over one-third of the fuel needed to sustain coalition forces in Iraq;
- “the members of the 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry have detained over 60 insurgents;
- “the members of the 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry were scheduled to return home in April 2007, but had their tours of duty extended until July 2007;
- “the members of the 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry left behind civilian jobs, friends, and families in order to serve the United States;
- “1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry members Sergeant 1st Class Scott E. Nisely and Sergeant Kampha B. Sourivong gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country when

they were tragically killed during combat operations near Al Asad, Iraq, on September 30, 2006; and

- “the United States will be forever indebted to the soldiers and families of the 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry for their sacrifices and their contributions to the United States mission in Iraq.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 568 was introduced on July 25, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Armed Services, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

RSC Staff Contact: Sarah Makin; sarah.makin@mail.house.gov; 202-226-8587.

S. Con. Res. 27 — A concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of “National Purple Heart Recognition Day” (*Sen. Clinton, D-NY*)

Order of Business: S.Con.Res. 27 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 30, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: S. Con.Res. 27 would express the sense that the House of Representatives:

- “supports the goals and ideals of ‘National Purple Heart Recognition Day’;
- “encourages all people in the United States to learn about the history of the Purple Heart and to honor its recipients; and
- “calls upon the people of the United States to conduct appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support for members of the Armed Forces who have been awarded the Purple Heart.”

The resolution the following findings:

- “the Purple Heart is the oldest military decoration in the world in present use;
- “the Purple Heart is awarded in the name of the President of the United States to members of the Armed Forces who are wounded in a conflict with an enemy force or are wounded while held by an enemy force as prisoners of war, and is awarded posthumously to the next of kin of members of the Armed Forces who are killed in a conflict with an enemy force or who die of wounds received in a conflict with an enemy force;

- “the Purple Heart was established on August 7, 1782, during the Revolutionary War, when General George Washington issued an order establishing the Honorary Badge of Distinction, otherwise known as the Badge of Military Merit;
- “the award of the Purple Heart ceased with the end of the Revolutionary War, but was revived in 1932, the 200th anniversary of George Washington’s birth, out of respect for his memory and military achievements; and
- “observing National Purple Heart Recognition Day is a fitting tribute to George Washington and to the more than 1,535,000 recipients of the Purple Heart, approximately 550,000 of whom are still living.”

Committee Action: S.Con.Res. 27 was introduced on April 12, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Armed Services, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

RSC Staff Contact: Sarah Makin; sarah.makin@mail.house.gov; 202-226-8587.

H.R. 2722 — Integrated Deepwater Program Reform Act (Cummings, D-MD)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Monday, July 30, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 2722 would overhaul and integrate the U.S. Coast Guards Deepwater acquisition program. The bill would require the Secretary of the Department under which the Coast Guard is operating implement a plan that would increase the oversight of the program, which upgrades and replaces aging ships, aircraft and other equipment.

H.R. 2722 would require the Secretary to use full and open competition for every contract for which the Deepwater Program uses an outside contractor. Under certain circumstances, the Secretary may forego competition if it is in the best interest of the government. In such cases, the Secretary would be required to submit a report explaining the why such a contract is in the best interest of the government within 30 days of procurement.

The bill would require the Secretary to include technical reviews, technical requirements, cost estimates, and performance assessments in each contract or subcontract issued under the Deepwater Program. The Secretary would also be required to develop an authoritative life cycle cost estimate for the entire Deepwater Program.

H.R. 2722 would establish the Agency Chief Acquisition Officer and require the Commandant of the Coast Guard to appoint a person to the position. This individual would be responsible for monitoring the Deepwater Program and ensuring the use of detailed performance specifications and performance based contracts.

The bill would also require the Secretary to submit to Congress reports regarding various Coast Guard security and technology programs.

Additional Information: According to Congressional Quarterly, “the Coast Guard unveiled Deepwater in 1998. Costs and timetables for the program, which is managed by a private consortium led by Lockheed Martin Corp. and Northrop Grumman Corp., have grown since then. The overall price tag is now estimated at about \$24 billion, up from an original estimate of \$9.8 billion to \$15 billion. Many in Congress have been dissatisfied with Deepwater for several years, but concerns intensified earlier this year when the Homeland Security Department’s inspector general found that a key class of ships in the program would not meet performance standards.”

This bill seeks to improve Deepwater’s performance standards by increasing oversight and establishing performance based contracts.

Committee Action: H.R. 2722 was introduced on June 14, 2007 and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, which referred the bill to the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation the following day. On June 26, 2007, the bill was forwarded to the full committee, as amended, by voice vote. On June 28, 2007, a committee mark up was held and the bill was reported by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to a CBO estimate, H.R. 2722 would authorize \$5 million over the FY 2008 – FY 2012 period.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is not available. However, House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific* powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution” [*emphasis added*].

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H.R. 735 — To designate the Federal building under construction at 799 First Avenue in New York, New York, as the “Ronald H. Brown United States Mission to the United Nations Building” (*Rangel, D-NY*)

Order of Business: H.R. 735 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 30, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 735 would designate the Federal building under construction at 799 First Avenue in New York, New York, as the “Ronald H. Brown United States Mission to the United Nations Building.”

Additional Information: According to Committee Report 110-230, “Ronald Harmon Brown was born on August 1, 1941. His early school days were spent at Hunter College Elementary School, a public school on Manhattan's East Side. He subsequently attended high school at White Plains High School and the Rhodes School in Manhattan. In 1962, Brown graduated from Middlebury College in Vermont. After college, he served in the Army from 1962 to 1967, commanding several units in the United States, Germany, and South Korea. Brown was discharged from the Army in 1967. After serving in the Army, he attended St. John's Law School and began working as a job developer and trainee adviser for the National Urban League. By 1976, Brown served as the National Urban League's Deputy Executive Director for programs and governmental affairs.

“He left the National Urban League in 1979 to work for Senator Edward M. Kennedy, who sought the Democratic Party's presidential nomination. In 1981, Brown began a career as a lawyer and lobbyist. In 1988, he was elected Chairman of the Democratic National Committee. From 1989 to 1992, he served as Chairman used his skills as a negotiator and pragmatic bridge builder to help reunite the Democratic Party after its defeat in the 1988 presidential election. In 1993, President William J. Clinton appointed Ronald H. Brown as Secretary of Commerce.

“Tragically, on April 3, 1996, while on an official Department of Commerce trade mission, Secretary Brown and 34 others were killed in an airplane crash in Croatia.”

Possible Conservative Concerns: Some conservatives may be concerned that Ronald H. Brown is the former head of the Democratic Party.

Committee Action: H.R. 735 was introduced on January 31, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, which referred the bill to the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management the following day. On March 1, 2007, a mark up was held and the bill was reported by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score of H.R. 735 is unavailable, but the only costs associated with a post office renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Constitutional Authority: Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to establish Post Offices and post roads.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H.R. 2722 — Integrated Deepwater Program Reform Act (*Cummings, D-MD*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Monday, July 30, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 2722 would overhaul and integrate the U.S. Coast Guards Deepwater acquisition program. The bill would require the Secretary of the Department under which the Coast Guard is operating implement a plan that would increase the oversight of the program, which upgrades and replaces aging ships, aircraft and other equipment.

H.R. 2722 would require the Secretary to use full and open competition for every contract for which the Deepwater Program uses an outside contractor. Under certain circumstances, the Secretary may forego competition if it is in the best interest of the government. In such cases, the Secretary would be required to submit a report explaining the why such a contract is in the best interest of the government within 30 days of procurement.

The bill would require the Secretary to include technical reviews, technical requirements, cost estimates, and performance assessments in each contract or subcontract issued under the Deepwater Program. The Secretary would also be required to develop an authoritative life cycle cost estimate for the entire Deepwater Program.

H.R. 2722 would establish the Agency Chief Acquisition Officer and require the Commandant of the Coast Guard to appoint a person to the position. This individual would be responsible for monitoring the Deepwater Program and ensuring the use of detailed performance specifications and performance based contracts.

The bill would also require the Secretary to submit to Congress reports regarding various Coast Guard security and technology programs.

Additional Information: According to Congressional Quarterly, “the Coast Guard unveiled Deepwater in 1998. Costs and timetables for the program, which is managed by a private consortium led by Lockheed Martin Corp. and Northrop Grumman Corp., have grown since then. The overall price tag is now estimated at about \$24 billion, up from an original estimate of \$9.8 billion to \$15 billion. Many in Congress have been dissatisfied

with Deepwater for several years, but concerns intensified earlier this year when the Homeland Security Department's inspector general found that a key class of ships in the program would not meet performance standards."

This bill seeks to improve Deepwater's performance standards by increasing oversight and establishing performance based contracts.

Committee Action: H.R. 2722 was introduced on June 14, 2007 and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, which referred the bill to the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation the following day. On June 26, 2007, the bill was forwarded to the full committee, as amended, by voice vote. On June 28, 2007, a committee mark-up was held and the bill was reported by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to a CBO estimate, H.R. 2722 would authorize \$5 million over the FY 2008 – FY 2012 period.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is not available. However, House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain "a statement citing the *specific* powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution" [*emphasis added*].

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H.R. 735 — To designate the Federal building under construction at 799 First Avenue in New York, New York, as the "Ronald H. Brown United States Mission to the United Nations Building" (*Rangel, D-NY*)

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Army from 1962 to 1967, commanding several units in the United States, Germany, and South Korea. Brown was discharged from the Army in 1967. After serving in the Army, he attended St. John's Law School and began working as a job developer and trainee adviser for the National Urban League. By 1976, Brown served as the National Urban League's Deputy Executive Director for programs and governmental affairs.

"He left the National Urban League in 1979 to work for Senator Edward M. Kennedy, who sought the Democratic Party's presidential nomination. In 1981, Brown began a career as a lawyer and lobbyist. In 1988, he was elected Chairman of the Democratic National Committee. From 1989 to 1992, he served as Chairman used his skills as a negotiator and pragmatic bridge builder to help reunite the Democratic Party after its defeat in the 1988 presidential election. In 1993, President William J. Clinton appointed Ronald H. Brown as Secretary of Commerce.

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Possible Conservative Concerns: Some conservatives may be concerned that Ronald H. Brown is the former head of the Democratic Party.

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Constitutional Authority: Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to establish Post Offices and post roads.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

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